

Passenger and Vehicle Traffic by Tariff Code - 1998

The Alaska Marine Highway System does not collect demographic information on passengers or detailed vehicle information. The only information available on passengers and vehicle characteristics is that which is required to determine the proper tariff. Therefore, tariff information should be viewed as a superficial indicator of travel trends. Specifically, the number of senior citizens and physically challenged adults who used the system is not fairly represented by the numbers in the chart on page 24. These categories refer only to those who qualified for the tariff rates which are based on season, route, and other limiting factors. Another example is the number of "adults" traveling at the group rate. Many of these travelers over 12 years of age were students on school-sponsored trips.

Cardeck space is predominantly sold by vehicle length. However, some consideration must be given to width, to the overall weight of the vehicle traffic on the cardeck, and to the effect of vehicle placement on the vessel's overall stability. Consequently, vehicle tariffs are classified as Standard (up to 8-1/2' wide), Wide (up to 9' wide), Extra Wide (over 9' wide), and Vans. In 1998, vehicles of standard width comprised almost 95% of the motorized car deck traffic, including vans.

Due to their height and weight, vans must be categorized separately. Vans are defined as vehicles, normally commercial, and from 12'-13' in height with enclosed cargo space. Vans can be any length and either self-propelled or towed. A flatbed or stakebed truck or trailer, with a load higher than 10 feet from the ground, is also considered a van. Vans accounted for 5% of the motorized car deck traffic, but 8% of the total linear feet used. These percentages have stayed the same for three years.

Recreational vehicles are defined as truck/campers, camper vans, motorhomes, and vehicles with trailers. Although RVs are identified with a separate tariff, they are also classified by width. In the first table below, the RV traffic is included in the size categories. Recreational vehicles of all widths made up 8% of the total motorized cardeck traffic, and 12% of the linear feet.

In addition, 2,739 non-motorized forms of transport were ticketed. These "Alternate Means of Conveyance" include bicycles, kayaks and canoes that are not being transported in a car, truck or trailer. Nearly 12,000 vehicles, including most of the commercial vans, sailed unaccompanied by a driver. Although not shown in any of the tables, one other tariff number may interest readers: 7,660 pets, confined to the car deck, traveled by ferry in 1998.

1998 CAR DECK USAGE BY WIDTH AND SIZE

Vessel	Standard Vehicles (up to 8-1/2')	Commercial Vans	Wide Vehicles (up to 9')	Extra Wide Veh (over 9')	TOTAL	Non-motorized traffic	Vehicles without a driver
Columbia	8,804	563	24	4	9,395	418	1,107
Kennicott	4,809	182	9	3	5,003	168	463
Malaspina	12,272	122	52	2	12,448	432	388
Matanuska	14,449	995	102	5	15,551	382	1,914
Taku	16,944	1,413	45	6	18,408	393	2,652
Aurora	15,565	781	15	5	16,366	197	2,079
LeConte	6,992	403	5	-	7,400	387	1,419
Bartlett	6,834	255	12	-	7,101	196	335
Tustumena	8,811	306	24	5	9,146	166	1,537
TOTAL	95,480	5,020	288	30	100,818	2,739	11,894

1998 CAR DECK USAGE BY VEHICLE CATEGORY WITH PERCENT OF TOTAL

Recreational Vehicles		Vans		Other Vehicles*		Total	
Quantity	Feet	Quantity	Feet	Quantity	Feet	Quantity	Feet
8,027	230,896	5,020	155,061	87,771	1,606,686	100,818	1,992,643
8.0%	11.6%	5.0%	7.8%	87.1%	80.6%		

* Note: These figures do not include space used by non-motorized traffic.